

**Report on the Recruitment of  
Persons with Intellectual  
and Developmental Disabilities at  
Public Institutions of Higher  
Education in Texas**

(Senate Bill 37, 84th Texas Legislature,  
Regular Session)

**October 2016**

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### **Agency Mission**

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through *60x30TX*, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

### **Agency Vision**

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

### **Agency Philosophy**

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

### **Agency Core Values**

*Accountability:* We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

*Efficiency:* We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

*Collaboration:* We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

*Excellence:* We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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# **Report on the Recruitment of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Public Institutions of Higher Education in Texas**

The Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 61.0664, authorized through the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 37, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct an ongoing study on the college recruitment of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). According to the statute, the study is to “identify previously made recruitment efforts, limitations on recruitment and possible methods for recruitment” for this population (TEC, Section 61.0664(c)). Reports are to be submitted to the governor and members of the Legislature by November 1 of each even-numbered year.

The THECB staff, with the assistance of stakeholders from public institutions of higher education (IHEs) and the community, developed a survey instrument for collecting recruitment-related data. On August 11, 2016, the THECB distributed a memorandum to university and college presidents and community college liaisons with instructions for accessing the survey and a request that responses be submitted by August 31, 2016.<sup>1</sup>

Of the 102 IHEs sent the survey, 68 responded to the recruitment report. Of that number, 17 reported they engaged in some sort of recruitment activity targeting students with IDD. Among those 17 institutions, eight specifically recruited to a special program for students with IDD, while 12 recruited students with IDD into their general academic population, and some recruited to both. Common recruitment activities included:

- Presenting information at secondary schools (94.1 percent)
- Participating in career or transition fairs (94.1 percent)
- Distributing materials about programs and services for students with IDD (82.4 percent)
- Including information for potential students with IDD in general college materials (82.4 percent)
- Collaborating with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and Access College Texas to connect with populations that may benefit from those programs

The commonly cited limitations to recruiting students with IDD to institutions of higher education included:

- Having insufficient time and staff to appropriately address the need for these recruitment efforts
- Inability of students with IDD to attend recruitment activities due to unavailability of transportation
- Underpreparation of incoming students with IDD as they transition into higher education

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the cover memorandum is provided as Appendix A to this report.

- Lack of financial aid for students enrolling in certain types of transitional programs for students with IDD

A copy of the recruitment questions is provided as Appendix B.

To meet the SB 37 assignment to conduct an ongoing study on recruitment of persons with IDD, the THECB will continue to update and distribute the survey in the summer of even-numbered years and provide updated information to the governor and members of the Legislature.

In addition to the study on recruitment, SB 37 also required that the THECB collect administrative data on students with IDD enrolled in public IHEs. Through collaboration with stakeholders, a rule was drafted and approved by the THECB's board (Texas Administrative Code, Section 4.12) that requires all IHEs to indicate whether an enrolled student is identified as having an IDD, which allows the agency to track their academic success. Beginning in 2018, the report will include summary information obtained through those new data collection efforts, in addition to information on recruitment efforts.

## Appendix A Survey Announcement

**From:** TX Higher Education Coordinating Board [<mailto:theccb@public.govdelivery.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2016 4:11 PM  
**Subject:** Courtesy Copy: SB 37 & HB 1807 Survey of Recruitment & Inventory of Postsecondary Programs and Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

**This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Rhonda Hernandez.**

**This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:**

Subscribers of CTC Liaisons, Presidents All Community Colleges, Presidents TSTC, Public Health-Related Presidents & Chancellors, or Public University Presidents & Chancellors, (232 recipients)

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



Texas Higher Education  
Coordinating Board



*This email message is being sent on behalf of Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner; Division of Academic Quality and Workforce; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

### **SB 37 & HB 1807 Survey of Recruitment & Inventory of Postsecondary Programs and Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)**

Senate Bill 37, 84th Legislature, requires that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) collect and study data on the participation of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) at public institutions of higher education. It further requires the Coordinating Board to conduct an ongoing study of the college recruitment of persons with IDD. The study is to "identify previously made recruitment efforts, limitations on recruitment and possible methods for recruitment."

House Bill 1807, 84th Legislature, requires the Coordinating Board to maintain an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services provided for persons with IDD by institutions of higher education.

In fulfilling this legislative mandate, we ask that you or your designee complete a survey about recruitment of persons with IDD and the postsecondary programs and services

available at your institution for persons with IDD. Completion of the survey should take about 15-20 minutes.

**In order to get started in the IDD portal, you must obtain a CBID for that purpose, even if you currently have a CBID for another Coordinating Board portal. All new and current CBID holders will need to request access to the IDD portal with a new CBID. A link to the IDD User's Manual is available at: [IDD User's Guide](#) for your assistance. Instructions for obtaining a CBID begins on page 6. The manual will additionally be helpful in addressing other issues you may run into.**

To assist you in determining who on your campus should complete the survey, a copy is attached. However, please note that the survey must be completed online. **We ask that you complete the survey by no later than 3:00 pm, Monday, August 29, 2016.**

- [THECB\\_SurveyOfRecruitment&ProgramInventoryForStudentsWithIDD.PDF](#)



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## **Appendix B**

### **Survey Questions regarding Recruitment of Persons with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities August 2016**

Within the past year, has your institution taken steps to specifically recruit students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD)? Check all that apply.

- Yes – Into a Postsecondary Program for Students with IDD
- Yes – Into general academic courses at the institution
- No

Which of the following actions have you taken to recruit persons with IDD? Only select if the recruitment activity was specifically targeted for individuals with IDD. Check all that apply.

- Post program or service information on third-party website (example: thinkcollege.net)
- Operate a website for postsecondary transition programs for students with IDD
- Distribute materials about programs and services
- Present information at secondary schools
- Present at parent advocacy and support groups
- Include information in general college materials, such as websites, orientation sessions
- Participate in career fairs or transition fairs
- Offer campus or program tours for students with IDD
- Prepare recruitment counselors to include information about recruiting special populations
- None

List other recruitment activities you have undertaken for students with IDD that were not included in the list above.

List approaches have been successful for your institution in recruiting students with IDD.

List issues have that you have found that limit your ability to recruit students with IDD and how have you addressed them.

If applicable, please provide additional information about your institution's goals, efforts or future plans to recruit students with IDD.



This document is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

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